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09/767,819	01/22/2001	Robert M. Zeidman		9823

7590 08/12/2004
Robert M. Zeidman
7599 Squirewood Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

EXAMINER

MANNING, JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/767,819

Applicant(s)

ZEIDMAN, ROBERT M.

Examiner

John Manning

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Philyaw et al. (US Pat No 6,098,106).

In regard to claim 1, the claimed steps of "receiving a broadcast with embedded information about the broadcast" and "extracting content from said broadcast, for displaying to the viewer" are met by Figures 2, 9-10 and 13. "The receiver 110 separates the audio signal from the video signal. A special trigger signal located within the transmitted advertiser audio signal triggers proprietary software running on the computer 204 which launches a communication application, in this particular embodiment, the web browser application located on the PC 204" (Col 5, Lines 7-13). The claimed step of "extracting said embedded information from said broadcast" is met by Figures 2, 9-10 and 13. "Coded advertiser information contained within the audio signal is then extracted and appended with the address of a proprietary server located on the communication network" (Col 5, Lines 13-16). The claimed step of "storing said embedded

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information” is inherent to the reference because the embedded information is sent to the disclosed PC. The claimed step of “sending said embedded information and viewer information to a remote computer” is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. “This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server” (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A “user’s profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908” (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The claimed step of “receiving specific incentives based on said embedded information and said viewer information sent” is met by Figure 14. “However, to provide some incentive to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information” (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

In regard to claim 3, the claimed step of “imbedding information about broadcast along with the broadcast content” is met by Figure 1. “The program source is input to a mixing device 106, which mixing device is operable to mix in an audio signal. This audio signal is derived from an audio source 100 which comprises a coded audio signal which is then modulated onto a carrier which is combined with the television program source 104. This signal combining can be

done at the audio level, or it can even be done at the RF level in the form of a different carrier" (Col 2, Lines 65-67; Col 3, Lines 1-5). The claimed step of "broadcasting said content with said embedded information to a remote viewer of the content" is met by Figure 1, Item 117. "In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, there is provided a transmission station 101 and a receive station 117 that are connected via a communication link 108" (Col 2, Lines 58-60).

In regard to claim 4, the claimed step of "receiving information from said viewer about said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The claimed step of "sending specific incentives to said viewer based on said information received" is met by Figure 14. "However, to provide some incentive to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information" (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

In regard to claim 5, the claimed step of "imbedding information about the broadcast along with the broadcast content at regular time periods" is met by

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Figure 1. "The program source is input to a mixing device 106, which mixing device is operable to mix in an audio signal. This audio signal is derived from an audio source 100 which comprises a coded audio signal which is then modulated onto a carrier which is combined with the television program source 104. This signal combining can be done at the audio level, or it can even be done at the RF level in the form of a different carrier" (Col 2, Lines 65-67; Col 3, Lines 1-5). The claimed step of "broadcasting said content with said embedded information to a remote viewer of the content" is met by Figure 1, Item 117. "In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1, there is provided a transmission station 101 and a receive station 117 that are connected via a communication link 108" (Col 2, Lines 58-60).

In regard to claim 7, the claimed step of "receiving information about a broadcast from a remote viewer of said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The claimed step of "sending specific incentives to the remote viewer based on said information received" is met by Figure 14. "However, to provide some incentive

to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information" (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Philyaw et al.

In regard to claim 2, the claimed steps of "receiving a broadcast with information about the broadcast imbedded into the broadcast at regular time periods" and "extracting content from said broadcast, for displaying to the viewer" are met by Figures 2, 9-10 and 13. "The receiver 110 separates the audio signal from the video signal. A special trigger signal located within the transmitted advertiser audio signal triggers proprietary software running on the computer 204 which launches a communication application, in this particular embodiment, the web browser application located on the PC 204" (Col 5, Lines 7-13). The reference fails to explicitly disclose the use of timestamps; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well known in the art to use timestamps so as to synchronize embedded information with the video content. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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implement Philyaw with timestamps so as to synchronize embedded information with the video content. The claimed step of "extracting said embedded information from said broadcast" is met by Figures 2, 9-10 and 13. "Coded advertiser information contained within the audio signal is then extracted and appended with the address of a proprietary server located on the communication network" (Col 5, Lines 13-16). The reference fails to explicitly disclose the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. The claimed step of "storing said embedded information" is inherent to the reference because the embedded information is sent to the disclosed PC. The claimed step of "sending said embedded information and viewer information to a remote computer" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a

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profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The claimed step of "receiving specific incentives based on said embedded information and said viewer information sent" is met by Figure 14. "However, to provide some incentive to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information" (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

In regard to claim 6, the claimed step of "receiving information from said viewer about said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The reference fails to explicitly disclose the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices

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during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. The claimed step of "sending specific incentives to said viewer based on said information received" is met by Figure 14. "However, to provide some incentive to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information" (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

In regard to claim 8, the claimed step of "receiving information about a broadcast from a remote viewer of said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The reference fails to explicitly disclose the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well known in the art to use incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a

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record of the view time of a program by the user. The claimed step of "sending specific incentives to the remote viewer based on said information received and said counter values received" is met by Figure 14. "However, to provide some incentive to the user to enter more information, the original prompt in function block 1404 would have offers for such things as coupons, discounts, etc, if the user will enter additional information" (Col 11, Lines 58-61).

In regard to claim 9, the claimed step of "receiving information about a broadcast from a remote viewer of said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The claimed step of "searching a database for information about sponsors of the content of said broadcast and the incentives offered by said sponsors" is met by Figure 3. "The ARS 308 specifically will extract the product code information from the received packet 400 and, once extracted, will then decode this product code information. Once decoded, this information is then compared with data contained within the ARS advertiser database 310 to determine if there is a 'hit'" (Col 7, Lines 2-6). The reference discloses sending the advertisers URLs to the

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web browser of the user. "Referring now to FIG. 4b, the message packet 402 comprises the address of the source PC 302, the URL of the advertiser server 312 embedded within instructional code, and the URL of the ARS 308" (Col 7, Lines 18-22). The reference fails to explicitly disclose creating a Web page containing links to all sponsor incentive websites and to specific incentives and sending said Web page back to said viewer; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs.

In regard to claim 10, the claimed step of "receiving information about a broadcast from a remote viewer of said broadcast" is met by Figure 4a-4d and 9-10. "This appended data, in addition to other control codes, is inserted directly into the web browser application for automatic routing to the communication network. The web browser running on PC 204, and communicating to the network with a through an internal modem 208, in this embodiment, transmits the advertiser information to the remote server" (Col 5, Lines 17-23). A "user's profile can be forwarded to the original subscriber or manufacturer. The PC 906 has associated therewith a profile database 1302, which profile database 1302 is operable to store a profile of the user 908" (Col 10, Lines 51-55). The reference fails to explicitly discloses the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use incrementing counters for counting

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time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use of incrementing counters for counting time slices during said time periods so as to maintain a record of the view time of a program by the user. The claimed step of "searching a database for information about sponsors of the content of said broadcast and the incentives offered by said sponsors" is met by Figure 3. "The ARS 308 specifically will extract the product code information from the received packet 400 and, once extracted, will then decode this product code information. Once decoded, this information is then compared with data contained within the ARS advertiser database 310 to determine if there is a 'hit'" (Col 7, Lines 2-6). The reference discloses sending the advertisers URLs to the web browser of the user. "Referring now to FIG. 4b, the message packet 402 comprises the address of the source PC 302, the URL of the advertiser server 312 embedded within instructional code, and the URL of the ARS 308" (Col 7, Lines 18-22). The reference fails to explicitly disclose creating a Web page containing links to all sponsor incentive websites and to specific incentives and sending said Web page back to said viewer; however, the examiner take OFFICIAL NOTICE that it notoriously well know in the art to use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs. Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement Philyaw with the use a web page so as to facilitate the organization of URLs.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure as follows:

- The Matheny et al (US Pat No 6,766,524) discloses a system and method for encouraging viewers to watch television programs.
- The Smolen (US Pat No 5,915,243) discloses a method and apparatus for delivering consumer promotions.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Manning whose telephone number is 703-305-0345. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00 - 5:30.

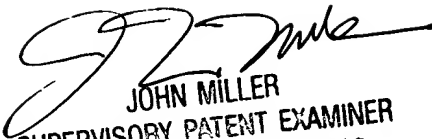
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W Miller can be reached on 703-305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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JM
August 5, 2004


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